

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

**APPROVED
ON JULY 2, 2008**

Meeting of June 4, 2008

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Members Present: Kim Bobola, PhD (Chair), Colleen Ionata (Vice Chair), Bill Strassberger (Parliamentarian), Thomas Aylward, Tracy DuPree Davis, Esq., Kimberly Y. Campbell, PhD, G. Stanley Doore, Allan Mulligan, Benoy Thomas, John Thomas, and Andre Carl Whisenton.

Members Absent: Sheala Durant (Secretary), Prasiddh Sinha, Kim Jones, Marva R. Deskins, Esq.

Staff: Anise Key Brown, (Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center); and Gwen Haney (Program Spec., EMRSC)

Guests: Claire Iseli (Staff, Councilmember Praisner's office), Harold H. Huggins, Roylene Roberts (Department of Housing and Community Affairs), Chris Jones (BMC Property Group), Terry Job-Van, Eileena York (Citizens Involved), Mara M. Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office), Bayo Osbinncei Jr. (Remax), Joyce Ettup, Amber Parcher (Gazette).

Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Citizen's Forum: Chair Bobola welcomed everyone. Guests were asked to introduce themselves. No issues or concerns were identified.

Speaker: Chair Bobola announced that Chris Jones of BMC Property Group of Bethesda would update the Board on plans for the Burtonsville Shopping Center.

Burtonsville Town Square

1. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the Burtonsville Town Square will be a "traditional, grocery store-anchored" shopping center – comprised of three buildings situated on 27 acres, and giving the appearance of "a series of shops" with a "high-end look." He explained that brick and stone will be used to create a compatible, but not homogeneous, look. The plans for the shopping center include the following businesses:
 - CVS – to become a new, free standing building
 - County liquor store – remaining
 - Dunkin Donuts – remaining
 - One or more banks

- Two sit-down restaurants of 5,000 to 6,000 square feet (may need to hold off on these for a year or so as restaurants tend to “pull away” in the current retail market)

Although the U.S. Post Office could be leaving the shopping center, negotiations are still open. The Hair Affair hair salon will close as the owner is retiring.

2. The goal of the project is to become “the greenest” retail center in America. Already, this project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council.¹ The project includes plans for extensive conservation easements, some reforestation, erosion control and restoration, the use of native plants to encourage the health of local habitat. Additionally, as part of the project:
 - Significant attention will be given to energy conservation and clean indoor air, resulting from the use of geothermal heat pumps, and energy efficient appliances and lighting. Plans for the indoor environment will be held to quality standards.
 - The environment created will be pedestrian and bike-friendly.
 - There will be a tie-in to the access road.
 - Provisions are in place for storm water management (e.g., especially the area alongside Burtonsville Elementary School) and water conservation.
 - Goals have been set for recycling of materials from the demolished buildings, the existing asphalt, and any trash from the site.

The project plans include activities aimed at promoting public education (e.g., developing school curriculum on native plants; partnering with the National Academy of Sciences) about the site and its uses of advanced techniques.

Q&A session followed. Major points included: this development project is intended to be complete next spring/summer; basic access points will not change; no current provisions have been made for bus traffic; set-backs have been incorporated with respect to adjoining home properties; buildings will encompass 130,000 to 150,000 square feet; construction for buildings will occur “all at once” phasing in only the sit-down restaurants; the low population density (within the 3 mile radius) and lack of daytime employment numbers prevent some stores and restaurants from moving in; the project is building the capacity to take advantage of new technologies.

Quad Reports

Chair Bobola advised that, due to time constraints, Quad Reports would be postponed until the next meeting.

¹ The **U.S. Green Building Council** is a 501(c) (3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings accessible to everyone within a generation.

- Kim Campbell shared a concern regarding the lack of youth programs in her Quad (#1) area. She noted that the Fairland Recreation Center's after-school program can accommodate only 35 youths and has a waiting list of over 22. She also mentioned that the PAL (Police Athletics/Activities Leagues) program at the Good Hope Center is being eliminated. Anise Key Brown advised the Board that the gap in youth programs created by the elimination of the PAL program may be dealt with in another way, and she would look into this and report back.
- Anise shared the intent of the Quad Reports is for Board members to share characteristics of the Quad areas and any special issues that are emerging in the areas.

ECCAB Meeting of July, 2008

Anise Key Brown announced that the next ECCAB meeting is scheduled to be held on July 2, and asked if the meeting date needed to be changed due to the Fourth of July holiday. The matter was undecided. She advised that she will do a tally and let the Board members know the results at a later time. If the meeting date is to be changed, the public will also be notified.

Approval of Minutes:

[May 7, 2008 - 1] A motion to approve the minutes of May 7th, 2008 was offered. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Council's Report: Claire Iseli

- **New Councilmember Don Praisner** was sworn in on May 27. He will be in his office on a regular basis starting Monday, June 9th. He will serve on the Council's Management and Fiscal Policy; Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED); and Public Safety committees.
- Please keep in mind that District 4's County Council office has been/is open for business.

Director's Report: Anise Key Brown

1. Thanked Claire Iseli for the assistance and support that she provided during the interim period and sent congratulations to Don Praisner on his election.
2. Announced the unveiling ceremony for the renaming of the Fairland Recreation Center and Fairland Library to the "Marilyn J. Praisner Center," on Saturday, June 7, 2008, and invited all to join.
3. Announced the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center's partnership with the State Department and Bill Strassberger in offering the June 19th documentary presentation and discussion of the "Iron Ladies of Liberia." Program fliers were disseminated.

4. Announced the East County Jazz Festival, a benefit for The People's Community Wellness Center (TPCWC), will be held on June 27- 28 at the East County Regional Services Center parking lot. Proceeds will benefit the operation of TPCWC as a Free Clinic.
5. Thanked Kim Bobola for her contribution of rewriting the 2006-2007 Annual Report and thanked the Board for their contributions to the Report's content.
6. Shared copies of "The Children's Agenda," by the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth & Families.
7. **[May 7, 2008 - 2]** A motion was made to approve last month's nomination for officers by the Board as follows: Kim Bobola, Chair; Colleen Ionata, Vice Chair; Sheala Durant, Secretary; and Bill Strassberger, Parliamentarian. The motion was seconded and approved.
8. Thanked retiring Board members Tracy Dupree-Davis and Andre Carl Whisenton for their service to the Board and presented a gift of appreciation.

Chair's Report: Kim Bobola

1. Announced that Reverend Will Kenlaw, in partnership with his wife, will be leading a new church in Rockville, and is resigning from the Board with regrets.
2. Thanked members who helped with the Colesville Strawberry Festival on May 31.
3. Asked members who are taking "sidewalk" photos to forward the photos, and identifying information, to Tom Aylward as soon as possible.
4. Announced that the Burtonsville Revitalization Charrette will take place on June 19, at 6:00 p.m., at Burtonsville Elementary School.

Committee Reports

Services Committee: Colleen Ionata, Chair

- Announced that in the past few months, the Services Committee has been discussing hosting a "rally" for youth/parents. The committee chair deferred to Kim Campbell for further explanation. Dr. Campbell explained the intent to organize this event stemmed from a County Youth Initiative. This group has identified the need for information-sharing on existing programs and activities for youth. Their vision is to hold a "Youth Explosion" to attract youth and accomplish this goal.

- Anise Key Brown offered this suggestion regarding an East County youth activity: When there is a county department that covers the area of responsibility, they should be the lead organizer. She suggested that the Services Committee and the Board write a letter to the department advising of their idea and asking how we can support them.
- Stan Doore asked what became of the Board's letter to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regarding incorporating *Choosing Civility* into their program. Chair Bobola advised that a response was received informing the Board that a review and evaluation committee will look at this. Anise Key Brown suggested that the Services Committee follow up to learn of the final outcome.

Outreach Committee: Tracy Davis, reporting for Marva Deskins

- Reported that, at their last meeting, the committee continued discussing plans for a Leadership Summit to take place in the fall at the Fairland Recreation Center. They plan to have each Board member have a role.

Additionally, Anise Key Brown:

- Advised the Board that the date for the Leadership Summit will be October 18, 2008, and that notices to "hold the date" will go out in July.
- Announced that a letter, drafted by the Outreach Committee, has been sent to the Department of Public Works & Transportation.

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair

- Reported that, on the May 29th, the county/ECCAB hosted an outreach meeting on Burtonsville Development. This was a planning meeting to advise the consultants. The process elicited ideas from business owners and the community on the strengths and weaknesses of Burtonsville area, and how they would choose to address them.
- Ideas were collected and will be further explored at the follow up meeting with the community on June 19th. Subsequently, additional work will be done by the consultants on a Community Legacy Grant. The timeline for this entire process is aggressive.
- The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and the Montgomery County Planning Board, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, heard comments from the community that the processes in place in Montgomery County are too long and arduous. This was acknowledged. A question was raised as to whether the structure of the planning board was a contributing factor. By contrast, Fairfax County has a streamlined process and a different structure for their planning board.

Claire Iseli added the consultants are working well with the County.

Anise Key Brown:

- Added that the County is moving forward with the Biotech Center and a new East County Fire Station.
- Announced that a formal site selection process for the new fire station will begin in September, and that a volunteer from ECCAB will have the opportunity to participate on the site selection committee.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- Stan Doore disseminated an article, for information only, on US1/MD 201 Project Planning Study. This is south of the Intercounty Connector and would connect with the Beltway.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding certain sections of the ICC. Many homes could have been spared by straightening and elevating the ICCA to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces on the ground while protecting the environment from added emissions caused by the longer distance to travel through the neighborhood.
- Stan Doore also disseminated the June issue of the “Calverton Current” newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned 9:20 p.m.

The date of the next meeting is tentatively set for July 2. Board members and the public will be notified if a date change occurs.